

GOOD OUTLOOK FOR WINNING SHELLS

During the past week interest in the Virginia Boat Club racing crews has been higher than at any other time since the season opened, and the members are enthusiastic over the prospects of having a winning boat this season. For the last four afternoon the candidates have been working out in both eight-oared shells and a four-oared gig, and when the boats came in last night Coach Hecox appeared pleased with the results of the week's practice.

Yesterday the boats were launched on the James river, and during the previous days, and a training practice was indulged in, with all the men showing up well. The candidates this year are not only above the average as to brawn, but are showing an unusual amount of stamina and staying power, which is of vital importance to the winning oarsmen.

The eight, known as the "Mary Jane," has been overhauled and re-rigged, and is quite as comfortable as the new boat, and its crew is doing good work. The men in the new eight have been rowing together longer, but the old boat has been giving them some sharp brushes on the river for distances of a mile or more. The new men, while the boat is in the hands of the old crew, have shown the endurance necessary for the ideal oarsman. Like Christian, he is a veteran at the game, and can be depended upon to set a stroke which only needs to be followed to insure victory.

The club regatta will be held on August 8th, promising to be the most attractive held on the James for years. The Old Dominion Club, of Alexandria, has been invited to enter a four-oared shell or gig in the races to be held, and it is expected that they will accept. The program will include an eight-oared shell race, one and one-half miles straight away; college gig race, one and one-half miles straight away; single pleasure boat race with lady coxswains, one-quarter mile dash; double pleasure boat race, with lady coxswains, three-eighths mile dash; swimming, tub races, canoe races and other events.

As a result of these races Captain Crawford and Coach Hecox hope to be able to pick the eight-oared and four-oared crews to represent the club in the Middle States Regatta at Washington on Labor Day.

The following is a resume of some of the candidates for the crews: "Mac" Welford, while not as large as his younger brother, is of a powerful build, and if he does not make good, it will be his own fault. He should add more snap and a harder drive to his stroke.

Higgins, one of the new members, is another man of brawn, and although not as heavy as Welford, he stands make a good man for him. He stands over six feet, and is likely to give a good account of himself. Coach Hecox is expecting great things of him.

Watt is another athlete with strong muscles, and when he adds more power to his work he should be a valuable man.

M. Gilliam is showing up much better this year than last and should make a good man for the four-oared gig, as he is a staid and is adding more snap to his work every day. E. Gilliam is one of the most regular members at practice, and when he instills a little more ginger in his racing he is bound to win a seat with the crew.

McKenzie is an old stand-by, and can always be depended upon to race with all his power from start to finish. He has been stroking one of the eight during the past week, and his work has been altogether satisfactory.

Howard Good Race, who has been the first of the eighteen men in that race to cross the finish line. Not only was he first, but he helped pull eight more of his clubmates over the finish line.

He is showing up in his new form, and is a valuable man to the club. Thornton is showing up very nicely for the time he has been in the boat, and when he is able to get his hands out more quickly, without rushing his slide, he will be a valuable acquisition to his crew.

Cushman is developing into a strong oarsman. He has a strong leg drive, which will be more effective when he is able to get the water where he reaches and avoid dipping his oar too deep.

Crump, while not of a powerful build, has an almost perfect build for an oarsman, and should give a good account of himself before the crew is selected for Labor Day. His main trouble is in not sitting up in the boat and reaching out for the stroke.

McCarthy has plenty of strength, and is a hard worker, but is inclined to be rather too loose, and lacks snap and the ability to get his power on the catch.

Great things are expected of Virginia's big right tackle, Welford. The big fellow will be a tower of strength in the boat as soon as he is able to use his strength to the best advantage. He does not seem to mind hard work, and takes to rowing like a duck to water.

Taylor is a willing worker, and should make some use of his strength in the boat. By sitting up higher and adding a little more snap, his chances will be very good.

Christian is one of the most finished oarsmen in the club, and for his pounds pulls a powerful oar. One of his greatest drawbacks is that he is not as regular in his attendance as he should be. However, he has had experience, and knows what training means, and his clubmates may expect to see him on the starting line September 7th, ready for the fight of his life.

Everybody knows Sidney Smith as one who has the build, the strength, the skill and the endurance necessary for the ideal oarsman. Like Christian, he is a veteran at the game, and can be depended upon to set a stroke which only needs to be followed to insure victory.

Boher is showing up in good shape. Although he has been in the boat but a very few times, he is rowing better than some of the older ones. His track record proves that he has the staying qualities which are so very necessary for an oarsman. Boher is a very popular oarsman, and all are anxious to see him make good.

Of the coxswains, Wodey seems to have a shade the better of Biers, although Biers claims that if he is able to control his voice he will be able to make Wodey look like 20 cents at the coming club regatta. While there is a great improvement in the steering, both seem to overlook the personal faults of the crew.

Ed Thomas, who is away for a few days, is expected to be back the early part of the week. He is one of the old oarsmen of the club, and is a very pretty performer with the sweep. His work is full of snap, and he is a lover of his work, the nightly spins never being too long for him.

Fitzgerald will return from his vacation to-morrow. It will be remembered that he is the athlete who rowed No. 4 in the West Point crew last summer, with a rowing experience of less than two weeks. He is a powerful oarsman, and has the added experience which he will be able to get before Labor Day should be one of the strongest rowers in the club.

Johnson has strength and power behind his stroke, and is a good season should be a winning oarsman. He is a good man for him. He stands over six feet, and is likely to give a good account of himself. Coach Hecox is expecting great things of him.

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